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United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Stanislaus National Forest
19777 Greenley Road
Sonora, CA 95370-5909

File Code: 3420
Route To:

Date: June 22, 1995

Subject: Wildlife Trees on the Hume Lake Ranger District (FPM Report No. C95-3)

To: Files

A Hazard Tree Workshop was held in Visalia, California from May 16-18, 1995. Part of the workshop program addressed retaining wildlife trees in public use areas. The intent was to provide an option for utilizing dead trees in recreation areas, administrative sites, or along roads, instead of perfunctorily removing them. Safety was still the guiding factor, and wildlife trees would not be created if they would present unacceptable hazards.

Tim Brown is a wildlife tree specialist from Bellevue, Washington, who modifies recently killed trees to enhance, or accelerate the development of, their wildlife characteristics and also make them less hazardous. He came to the Hume Lake Ranger District from May 7-9, 1995 and created 5 wildlife trees at two separate locations. These snags were used for demonstration purposes on a field trip that was part of the Hazard Tree Workshop on May 18. The purpose of this report is to document what Tim Brown did and where he did it.

The five trees included three white fir and two red fir. All trees had been attacked by the fir engraver and wood borers, plus the two red fir had moderate dwarf mistletoe infections prior to death. Saw cuts to top the snags were made slanting away from the road to be less visible and were roughened to simulate natural breaks. Small chainsaw cuts were made in the bark near the topping cut to create "sap wells" that would attract insects and birds. Long narrow cuts into the snag's bole, and parallel to it, served to imitate loose bark that is favored by bats.

Jane Huerta, Wildlife Biologist on the Hume Lake District, and I visited the trees on June 6, 1995. At that time "Wildlife Tree" signs were placed on each tree and photographs were taken.

STONY CREEK

Two trees were treated directly across the General's Highway from the Stony Creek Store/Restaurant.

TREE NO. 1: (Aluminum tag no. 57) White fir, 35.0" DBH, and 124' tall. Tree was 45 feet from the edge of the highway and leaned slightly toward the road. It had died in 1994 and was approximately 100 years old. Tree was topped at a height of 45 feet.

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TREE NO. 2: (Aluminum tag no. 19) White fir, 13.3" DBH, and 65' tall. It was not large enough to reach the road, but was treated anyway. Tree died in last 1-2 years.

MONTECITO SEQUOIA LODGE

Three trees were treated along the entrance road to Montecito Sequoia Lodge.

TREE NO. 1: (Aluminum tag no. 34) Red fir, 39.1" DBH, and 155' tall. Tree was 160 feet from the edge of the road, died 1993, and was topped at a height of 105'.

TREE NO. 2: (Aluminum tag no. 22) Red fir, 42.0" DBH, and 165' tall. Tree was 64 feet from the closest road edge and was topped at a height of 70 feet. It died in 1993 or 1994 and was 245 years old.

TREE NO. 3: (Aluminum tag no. 43) White fir, 33.5" dbh and 108' tall. Tree died in 1994 and was topped at a height of 48 feet.

John Pronos

JOHN PRONOS
Plant Pathologist

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